

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 DHA-02 IOE-00 /085 W

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P R 231807Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9237

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 02828

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AO, WA, SF, ZA

SUBJECT: UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA DISCUSSES ANGOLA
AND NAMIBIA

REF: (A) STATE 040636; (B) USUN 583; (C) LUSAKA 583
(NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH MCBRIDE SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 21. HE MADE POINTS OUTLINED IN REFTELS AND SAID THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS DISTURBED IF HIS NEW YORK CONVERSATION TRULY REPRESENTED THE COURSE OF HIS PRESENT THINKING. MCBRIDE LISTENED WITH AN ALTERNATELY INTENSE OR BEMUSED AIR.

2. MCBRIDE THEN EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD SOUGHT OUT A MEMBER OF THE USUN MISSION BECAUSE HE HAD LEARNED THAT THE
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PENTAGON WAS PREPARING CONTINGENCY PLANS CALLING FOR THE

USE OF "SPECIAL FORCES" IF THE MPLA/CUBAN ARMY, AT SWAPO'S INVITATION, SHOULD "INVADE SOUTH AFRICA'S BORDERS." HE EXPRESSED CONCERN LEST OUR MILITARY PLANNERS REGARD NAMIBIA AS PART OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND HE HOPED THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD ALERT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT THAT THE STATUS OF THE TWO ENTITIES IS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. THE IMMEDIATE PURPOSE OF HIS CONTACT IN NEW YORK WAS THAT "NO ERRORS HAPPEN" AS THESE PLANS PROCEED. EMBASSY OFFICER ASSURED MCBRIDE THAT THE USG UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA, AND THEN WENT ON TO EXPRESS SURPRISE THAT MCBRIDE WOULD THINK THE UNITED STATES MIGHT SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATE LANDING TROOPS IN NAMIBIA. MCBRIDE DID NOT RESPOND.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF A NAMIBIA-ANGOLA "PACKAGE DEAL," MCBRIDE SAID HE HAD FIRST RAISED THE IDEA WITH AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. HE EXPLAINED THAT SOONER OR LATER ANGOLA WOULD BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES. MCBRIDE SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE "GOOD STRATEGY" TO INCLUDE NAMIBIA IN THE TALKS FOR "THE SAME CONSIDERATIONS APPLY TO BOTH." THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT THE ANGOLA STORY WILL BE REPEATED IN NAMIBIA WITHIN A YEAR, AND IT THEREFORE BEHOVED THE PARTIES TO FORESTALL ANOTHER CLASH. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE HAD RAISED THE MATTER OF BASES. PART OF "SOVIETS' FEAR" IN ANGOLA WAS THAT THE US AND NATO PLANNED TO ESTABLISH BASES THERE TO REPLACE THE PORTUGUESE. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT SACLANT HAS DISCUSSED WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BASES ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERN COAST OF AFRICA IN ORDER TO CONNECT SOUTH AFRICA WITH THE NATO NETWORK. A PACKAGE DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS WOULD PROVIDE FOR A DENIAL OF BASES FOR EITHER SUPER POWER IN EITHER AFRICAN COUNTRY, A NEUTRALIZATION OF THE COASTLINE. MCBRIDE SUGGESTED THAT THE US MIGHT ENCOURAGE THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 02828

OAU TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE, AND
"FOR ONCE, THE UNITED STATES COULD ACQUIRE A BETTER IM-
AGE FOR ITS FOREIGN POLICY AND BE ON THE SIDE OF THE
ANGELS."

4. EMBASSY OFFICER EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR MCBRIDE'S
INVENTIVE THILKING, BUT SAID THAT HIS ASSUMPTIONS DID NOT
ACCORD WITH THE FACTS. OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT WE AS
WELL AS EMINENT AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE CALLED FOR THE CES-
SATION OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. E-
QUALLY, WE HAVE DENIED ANY INTEREST IN A MILITARY PRES-
ENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IT IS THE COMMUNIST WORLD THAT
HAS DISPATCHED FORCES TO AFRICA AND THE COMMUNIST WORLD
WHICH HAS ESTABLISHED BASES THERE. THOSE DESERVING OF
MCBRIDE'S ATTENTION ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE FOUND IN HAVANA
AND MOSCOW.

5. MCBRIDE FOLLOWED THESE ARGUMENTS WITH THE EYE OF A
MAN-IN-THE-KNOWN, SAVVY OF THE MANNER IN WHICH BIG POWERS
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OPERATE. HE LIKED USING THE WORD "SACLAN" IN A WAY THAT
MADE IT SOUND ALMOST SINISTER. APPARENTLY HE IS CONVINC-
ED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS MILITARY DESIGNS IN SOUTH-
ERN AFRICA, AND ALTHOUGH HE BACKED AWAY FROM THE RATHER
UNSOPHISTICATED VIEWS EXPRESSED IN NEW YORK, HE STILL
SEEMS TO THINK THAT RUMORED PENTAGON CONTINGENCY PLANS
ARE MORE DANGEROUS THAN A CUBAN ARMY ON NAMIBIA'S BOR-
DERS.

6. MCBRIDE LEFT SUNDAY FOR NAIROBI AND LUSAKA.

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